2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

Report submitted by Morocco

I. Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

1. The new international security situation resulting from the events of 11 September 2001 demonstrated the enormous importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the need to preserve its strength and credibility in order to confront the threats associated with nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

2. In this context, the Kingdom of Morocco believes that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key instrument for the maintenance of peace and security in the world. It has therefore always supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the authority of this regime and promoting its universality.

3. The Kingdom of Morocco stresses the crucial importance of respect by all States Parties for the provisions of the Treaty and the obligations arising from it.

4. For its part, the Kingdom of Morocco, which has signed and ratified all the multilateral instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, remains committed to general and complete disarmament and in particular to nuclear disarmament. Since its accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970, the Kingdom of Morocco has constantly worked for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their non-proliferation.

5. Moreover, as a Contracting Party, the Kingdom of Morocco has consistently supported the decisions aimed at strengthening the review process of the Treaty.

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6. For this reason, the Kingdom of Morocco fully supports the positive conclusions of the 1995 and 2000 review conferences of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and reaffirms the importance of their implementation by the States Parties, in a transparent, balanced and irreversible manner.

7. It believes that the multilateral non-proliferation regime must be strengthened in order to combat the illicit proliferation of nuclear devices and material and the risks of nuclear terrorism.

8. Likewise, at the level of the General Assembly, the Kingdom of Morocco has always supported the adoption of resolutions aimed at promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. The Kingdom of Morocco endorses action aimed at ending the deadlock in the work of the Conference on Disarmament and continues to support the undertaking of negotiations for the formulation of a treaty on fissile material, a legal instrument on negative security assurances and a convention on nuclear disarmament.

10. The Kingdom of Morocco reaffirms its commitment to the inalienable right of the States Parties to the Treaty to carry out research, and develop the production and utilization of nuclear energy and technologies for peaceful purposes, particularly through international cooperation under monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. The Kingdom of Morocco, which supports a total ban on nuclear tests, has signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It deplores the fact that this Treaty, which was opened for signature on 24 September 1996, has still not entered into force. In this respect, it reiterates its appeal to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty without delay. It stresses the importance of respect for the moratoriums on nuclear tests and of the convening of conferences in order to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty.

12. In addition, in implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Kingdom of Morocco concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA as of 1973. On 22 September 2004, it concluded an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement with the Agency, pursuant to the Treaty.

13. The Kingdom of Morocco has also ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It has also notified the Director General of IAEA of its acceptance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

14. The Kingdom of Morocco believes that appropriate security measures should be established for nuclear installations and is in favour of strengthening the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

15. The efforts made by the Kingdom of Morocco to supplement its legal arsenal for combating the proliferation of and trafficking in devices and material that could help non-State actors to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop or transport nuclear, biological or chemical weapons demonstrate the Kingdom's unshakeable commitment to the campaign waged by the international community to confront terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

16. A standing committee for nuclear monitoring, established by royal decree in January 2001 and attached to the office of the Prime Minister, has been charged,

inter alia, with preparing a homogeneous and unified draft law on nuclear and radiological safety and security and on the establishment of a safety authority to be charged with ensuring tight control over nuclear material and radioactive sources, keeping an inventory of them and applying safety and security measures in accordance with national legislation and basic international standards. This draft law, elaborated in collaboration with IAEA experts, has been submitted to the competent authorities within the framework of the constitutional process for adoption.

17. Other draft regulations pertaining to transport safety and waste management are in the process of being finalized. The draft law on civil liability in case of nuclear damage, meanwhile, was adopted on 20 January 2005.

18. Moreover, a draft joint decree on the physical protection of nuclear material is being elaborated. This text, conceived in the form of a regulation, complies with the provisions of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

19. The Kingdom of Morocco, being profoundly convinced that the international effort to combat terrorism should cover all aspects of that complex phenomenon, fully shares the concerns of the international community concerning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Thus, on 26 October 2004, it submitted its national report pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

20. The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism by the General Assembly as a significant step forward in the international struggle against international terrorism in all its forms.

II. Implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

1. The Kingdom of Morocco remains convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones helps strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. For that reason, it has always supported the establishment of such zones where they do not exist.

2. The Kingdom of Morocco was one of the first countries to call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, because it believes that the existence of such a zone is not only a necessary measure to banish proliferation and insecurity in this region, but also an international objective and a factor in the consolidation of peace and security in the world.

3. At the level of the League of Arab States, Morocco is participating in the development of a legal and technical mechanism for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

4. Within IAEA, the Kingdom of Morocco is taking active steps to promote the application of the Agency's safeguards regime throughout the Middle East region, because it believes that this is an essential international security measure.

5. The Kingdom of Morocco encourages the conclusion by all States of the Middle East region, including Israel, of comprehensive safeguards agreements with

IAEA, as an important step towards the creation of a climate of trust between the States of the region and a preliminary measure for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. The Kingdom of Morocco has helped promote confidence-building measures among the States that are parties to the conflict in the Middle East, particularly by participating in the work of the Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security.

7. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East requires that the only State of the region — Israel — that is not yet a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty should accede to it and submit its nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime. This concern was specifically mentioned in the decisions of the 1995 and 2000 review conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

8. Morocco stresses the need for all the parties concerned to take concrete measures, as a matter of urgency, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region and, pending the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly their intention to refrain, on the basis of reciprocity, from manufacturing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and not to allow the emplacement of nuclear weapons in their territories by any third party.

9. The Kingdom of Morocco is conducting sustained action, at both the regional and the international levels, to encourage all the States of the region to undertake the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

10. The Kingdom of Morocco constantly reiterates its appeal to the nuclear Powers, and particularly to the depositaries of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to the international community and to international organizations to assume their respective responsibilities for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.